

MAIL STOP AF – AFTER FINAL EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of:

Keith E. Finger et al

: Art Unit: 3651 APR 2 7 2004

Appl. Serial No. 09/808,657

Examiner: Rashmi K. Sharma

Filed:

March 15, 2001

: Confirmation No. 4923

For:

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April 27, 2004 Date of Certificate

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

AND AMENDMENT

This Request for Continued Examination and Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2003 and the Advisory Office Letter mailed April 6, 2004 in the above-captioned Application.

This Amendment is being filed within one month of the mailing date of the Advisory Office Action being responded to, and within the six-month statutory period for response to the Final Office Action mailed November 4, 2003 which expires May 4, 2004. Applicants initial response to the Final Office Action was filed on January 2, 2004, within two months of the mailing thereof, and so the time extension policy under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) applies from the date of mailing of the Advisory Action.

RD0530-ASGCO

PATENT APPLICATION Serial No. 09/808,657

Payment of the fee for requesting continued examination and of the fee for filing a response within the first month after the mailing of the Advisory Action is provided for herein below, and a Fee Transmittal is submitted herewith.

Telephone Interview:

Examiner Sharma is thanked for extending the courtesy of a Telephone Interview on April 26, 2004, as invited by the Advisory Action, and agreeing to prepare an Interview Summary for the record.

The Examiner confirmed that claims 2-8, 10, and 12-38 will be allowed if Applicants file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and that claims 39-57 and 71-89 would be rejoined to the Application and allowed if resubmitted in the RCE with amendment and argument to rejoin as set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 2, 2004.

Applicants agreed to file an RCE including setting forth the amendments and arguments as set forth in the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 2, 2004, and to cancel claims 58-70 directed to a tensioner.

This Amendment includes in the Remarks section the arguments presented in the Telephone Interviews. The amendment to claim 22 and the proposed amendment to claim 81 herein conform to the agreement reached in the previous Interview.

In the event there is any question or unresolved issue, Applicants hereby request continuation of the Telephone Interview to resolve such question or issue.

Amendment:

Please continue examination and amend the captioned Application as follows: